

Strath, Skye ; and to that fascinating region he has returned again and again, giving his attention more particularly to the volcanic phenomena of this and other of the Inner Hebrides. In the identification of the fossils, which in his first expedition he collected from the Lias of Skye, Pabba, and Scalpa, he was aided by Dr. Thomas Wright, who marked out the successive zones that were represented.

Wright afterwards made known the existence in southwestern England of the zone of *Avicula contorta* ; and this formation, previously grouped as the Lias bone-bed, was further elucidated by Charles Moore, who introduced into this country the use of the name *Rhætic*, and figured and described many of the fossils of that formation.

In consequence of these researches H. W. Bristow and Robert Etheridge, of the Geological Survey, made a special examination of the Rhætic Beds in the West of England and in South Wales ; and the results were briefly notified in 1864. Murchison manifested so much interest in the subject that he visited Penarth with Bristow, and besought him to find the *Avicula contorta*. This he succeeded in doing. Then considering it desirable that a name borrowed from a British locality should be used on the Geological Survey map, Murchison suggested that the term Penarth Beds be adopted for the equivalents of the Rhætic formation.¹

A little later some controversy arose on the age of certain conglomeratic limestones on the Glamorganshire coast near Bridgend. Edward Bernard Tawney (1841-82), whose brief career 'was an admirable instance of successful work achieved in spite of a frail and suffering frame,' brought before the Society in 1865 a paper on the western limit of the Rhætic Beds in South Wales. He then expressed the view that the so-called 'Lias conglomerate' of Sutton and Southerndown near Bridgend was of Rhætic age. This view (ultimately abandoned by Tawney) was contested in papers read in March 1867 by H. W.

¹ *Geol. Mag.* 1864, p. 238.